

**SAIC-Frederick ADA/UFAS Design Criteria**  
**March 21, 2002**

NCI-Frederick is a federally owned and funded research facility. Being part of the federal government, the ADA is not directly applicable to the NCI-Frederick. The applicable guidance on this subject is the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This fact is supported by a memo to Ron Defelice from Dee Mukherjee, Office of the General Council, DHHS dated May 4, 1992.

Our human resources and medical services departments meet UFAS accessibility standards, which will allow all individuals to complete the employment application process. The majority of our buildings are presently accessible, at least to the administrative areas, which include toilet facilities.

SAIC Frederick shall conform to the NIH Guidelines and provide freedom of movement for all visitors to the facility whenever possible. SAIC Frederick currently constructs and renovates its facilities to comply with the latest requirements of UFAS. UFAS standards provide guidance for barrier free movement on roads and grounds, entry into buildings, clear passage through buildings including elevators and lifts, toilet facilities, signage and alarms, and general reach limits. UFAS does not specifically address workstation requirements, which would vary for each individual. (It should be noted that the language of the ADA addresses the employer/employee/workplace issues and then in such a way as to require modifications to the workspaces only after an employee's needs and specific accommodations have been identified.)

Our overarching policy is that all modifications to NCI-Frederick common use and administrative areas as well as new facilities will be designed per UFAS standards. Renovations of existing NCI-Frederick laboratories and operations areas will be designed to provide reasonable accommodations for our employees as required on a case by case basis in the "spirit" of the ADA. Some accessibility items, such as minimum 36" doors, lever faucet handles on sinks, UFAS compliant audio/visual fire alarms and 36" wide access/egress passage(s) within spaces shall be routinely included when and where possible. Other specific accommodations and features can be provided upon identification of the need. However, general application of ADA requirements to all operational spaces without a specific case need is NOT intended. This is due to the unreasonable impact to space and configuration requirements in specialized laboratory and animal facilities.